

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

100209Z Nov 03

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 002870

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PINR](#) [EAID](#) [KDEM](#) [GT](#)

SUBJECT: GUATEMALAN ELECTIONS: VERY PRELIMINARY RESULTS
SHOW FRG TRAILING AT 8 PM ON ELECTION NIGHT

1. Early election results from around the country (often representing only one or two tables) at 8 p.m. on election night have given the following results. We note that the sample is too small to be considered statistically reliable, but does reflect the vote from the four corners of the country. Berger appears to have an early lead in Guatemala City and eastern Guatemala, and Colom is ahead in the indigenous west. Rios Montt is a distant third nationwide.

	percentage of vote for			
	GANABerger	UNEColom	FRGRios Montt	PANLopez
Totonicapan	27	43	10	16
Jutiapa	31	23	23	9
San Marcos	21	28	18	24
Chimaltenango	18	49	10	4
Retalhuleu	51	20	13	5
Zacapa	32	27	26	10
Ixtapa (Escuintla)	30	32	27	10
Quezaltenango	48	31	8	5
Guatemala City	48	31	11	4

2. FRG leaders called a press conference late in the afternoon on November 9 to complain that leading daily "Prensa Libre" and anti-government cable TV Guatevision had violated the electoral law by issuing anti-FRG propaganda on election day. "Prensa Libre" printed a special edition at mid-day, which headlined "FRG JEERED-AT," referring to the fact that some individuals jeered at Rios Montt when he voted. The special edition was sold throughout the country, including inside voting centers (an Embassy officer purchased one inside a voting center). Guatevision has been showing a music video all day which talks about the importance of making the right choices and uses pictures of masked FRG protesters burning tires on July 24. FRG leaders called on the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) to take legal action against "Prensa Libre" and Guatevision. The FRG leaders also complained that large numbers of their supporters (like those of other parties) were disenfranchised by the problems with the voter registry and long delays voters suffered around the country at voting centers.

3. Tensions remain high in several small towns where voting lines remained long at the time the polls were supposed to close. The TSE has announced that, in areas where large numbers of intending voters were still waiting to have their documents validated, polls will remain open until midnight.
HAMILTON